

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 27, 1848.

When the occurrences of the past month are considered, it will be admitted, we think, that the principal hindrance to the repose of Europe is the condition of the mass of the people, and the feelings entertained by them that they are not, and perhaps never have been, properly considered and cared for; that no existing European Government has been framed or executed with a view to their interests and well-being; and that they are not sufficiently regarded or protected in any of the changes which are contemplated.

It is probably only within the last half century that the bulk of the people have turned their attention to this subject. It is only, as it were, yesterday that the mass of mankind discovered they had any political rights, and entitled to as full an enjoyment of the comforts and pleasures of life as the wealthy, the high-born, and the titled few.

Education has done much towards teaching the natural equality of man, and it will be education that, in the end, will establish that equality.

We are not preaching up communism or agrarianism, or any other wild doctrine of the day, but we are inculcating the great doctrines taught by the constitution of the United States—doctrines which cannot be carried out, under existing circumstances in any country in Europe, but which the tendency of the age, the improvements in moral and political philosophy and sound knowledge, and the firm but temperate demands of the people, will gradually lead to the adoption of throughout middle and Southern Europe. These doctrines and opinions will be adopted as the foundation of Government as rapidly, and just in such proportions, as people are capable of receiving and profiting by their adoption.

The whole of the people of these sections of Europe are in a transition state; and they are anxious for a greater and more sudden change than they are capable of sustaining, or than the condition of the respective countries will allow them to participate in. No doubt they wish to possess as much political liberty and enjoy as much political power as they can acquire. It is the business of statesmen and men in power to ascertain as correctly as possible how much the people may be trusted with, how much they are fit for, and can sustain. The settlement of this question between law-makers and the people, for whose benefit all laws ought to be made, is the great business of Councils, Assemblies, and Parliaments. Until this question is settled Europe will be unquiet; France and Germany without tranquillity, and the world at large restless and feverish. There is, however, one great good which arises from this universal perturbation; the various Nations and Potentates and Ministers have each so much to do at home that they cannot, if they would, interfere with their neighbors. The dread of civil war or intestine commotion prevents the chance of international war; it may be truly said that "all Europe's discord keeps all Europe's peace."

What are the principal subjects which at present engross the attention of Europe? Are they not the debates in the French Convention upon the new constitution of France; the deliberations at Frankfurt respecting the constitution of United Germany; the proceedings at Vienna and Berlin in relation to Austria and Prussia; and the condition of Ireland? In all these cases does not the chief difficulty arise from the people demanding greater privileges and powers than they have hitherto enjoyed?

The war between Denmark and Prussia, and that between Austria and Sardinia, have both been suspended by armistice, and there are hopes that they will ultimately be terminated by the mediation of friendly Powers. In neither of these cases did the question arise, how much political right and privilege should be accorded to the people, but merely who should be their political head?

In France, the great disturbing difficulty has been the "rights of labor," or, in other words, the rights of every man, who has the labor of his hands to dispose of, and cannot find an individual purchaser, to call upon the Government to become the purchaser. The common-sense view of this matter appears to be, that labor, like every other commodity, must rise and fall in value according to the demand for it. If the supply be larger than the demand, as is pretty much the case all over Europe, its value must be proportionally depreciated. And if there be no demand for it, it can no more be forced on the market than a superabundant crop of corn, coffee, or cotton can. If an individual cannot sell these things in the market, has he a right to demand that the Government should purchase them? He certainly has as good a right to do so, as the laborer has to insist that the Government should purchase his labor. There is no doubt that every individual has a right to the food that is necessary for his existence, and this the society of which he is a member must supply him with, if he cannot procure it for himself. In all society such a provision is made for the destitute, and it is a tax which all societies must bear. But to tax a community with the purchase of labor which is not wanted is great injustice to all parties. It places the laborer in a false position, and increases the public burdens unnecessarily. The French National Convention came to this conclusion when it refused, by a vote of 596 against 187, "to guarantee to each citizen, by the constitution, assistance to labor."

Nearly all the difficulty which has occurred in France since the revolution has arisen from this labor question, and the use which has been made of it by demagogues and enthusiasts. LAMARTINE's exertions were; if not paralyzed, very much weakened by its operation; and General CAVAIGNAC has found the chief difficulties of his position in the same quarter.

In England, where there is a very large proportion of the poor who would labor for their subsistence if they could find a purchaser for their labor, the poor laws are maintained by the operation of the poor laws. Here the right of support is not questioned; the right of labor, in the French acceptance of the phrase, has not yet been asserted. The following statement is connected with this subject; it shows how rapidly and alarmingly pauperism is increasing in England:

| Expenditure. | No. of paupers. | Proportion of the population. |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1840.....£3,739,419 | 1,119,529 | 77 per 1,000 |
| 1843.....4,279,565 | 1,539,490 | 95 do |
| 1847.....4,367,055 | 1,721,350 | 101 do |

In this table the total amount of expenditure is not the object to be attended to; for this depends upon many causes, price of provisions, seasons, &c. The number of persons relieved is the test of the condition of the people; and it is grievous to reflect upon a state of society where more than one-tenth of the members are absolutely paupers.

It is much to the credit of the people of England that, under such a heavy pressure, they have remained so peaceable. Political reformation, they say, is the panacea for their troubles; the masses in England do not call out for the rights of labor, for a new modelling of society according to the plans of Socialists, Agrarians, or Communists, but for such a distribution of power among the people as may enable them to pass such laws, or, at least, to influence their legislators to pass such laws as may conduce to the good of the many, instead of protecting the assumed rights of the privileged few. This seems a reasonable and a just desire, and we have very little doubt of its gradual fulfillment.

The business of the Central Parliament of Germany, assembled at Frankfurt, is more of a political than a social nature. It is impeded, however, in some measure, by the labor question, but much

more by the ultra democratic views of the representatives from some of the northwestern States of Germany, where the people are of opinion that too much of that spirit cannot be infused into a constitution which is to extend its rule over "United Germany." The treaty with Schleswig-Holstein was rejected in the first instance, because it had been concluded irrespective of the control of the representatives of the entire German people; and when, under peculiar circumstances, it was afterwards ratified, the people were dissatisfied with the proceeding, and hence the outbreak at Frankfurt and the horrible doings there. In the same way "We the people" keep the authorities at Vienna continually upon the alert, and the Prussian population are apparently about to attempt to dictate terms to their Sovereign which he must either accept or resist by force.

Then, as to Ireland, what is the ostensible cause of the repeated outbreaks? The union with England and the repeal of that union is the motto of thousands, who literally do not know what the expressions mean. It is known, however, and felt by starving millions, that their condition is a wretched one; that they are taught to believe that repeal would improve that condition, and hence their ill-directed exertions to obtain it. And what have the insurrections and rebellions and revolutions in Italy arisen from? From the same cause, although differently manifested. The mass of the people at Rome, Naples, Florence, and Messina think that they are debarr'd from the full enjoyment of those advantages which a just social compact would ensure to them. But it may be well doubted whether the people at large are at present prepared for any great extension of political privilege. We except, however, the kingdom of Sardinia, and Lombardy, and Venice from this depreciating estimate, and have great hopes that they will accomplish much of the political and social regeneration which is sought by their respective people.

The events which have taken place in Europe during the present year have taught all parties very important lessons. The governed have become acquainted with their strength, and the governors have been taught to respect it, and not necessarily or incautiously to oppose it. Both divisions are, in most cases, prepared to be governed by higher principles than those which, even twenty years ago, would have actuated them. Education has done much to bring about this happy change. The example of a great republic across the Atlantic, increasing its population, its wealth, and its power, at a hitherto unexampled pace—where the people are, in great measure, self-governed; where poverty is comparatively unknown; where no one man has privileges which every other man does not possess, nor power except as a deposit in his hands for the good of those who so deposit it, and for the exercise of which he is promptly made accountable—the existence of a country so governed and so situated, has not been unheeded by the people of Europe, and they are naturally inspired with a wish to approximate their own condition as close to it as possible.

Such we hold to be the state of a great part of Europe, and such is the great principle which is at work, which actuates the minds of the people, and upon which all legislation must be based, or it will not be enduring. It is manifested in England by the cry for reform and retrenchment; in France by the demands of the laborer and the artisan; in Germany by a wish for a popular representative form of government; in Italy, Hungary, and Bohemia for national independence. Even Sweden and Denmark have felt something of the political epidemic, and their rulers have yielded to its influence. Holland and Belgium appear to be satisfied with the mild paternal sway of their respective Sovereigns. Even Turkey is no longer what Turkey was; whilst the fine and long-pressed provinces on the Danube keep both Russia and Turkey on the alert, and are full of the promise of political independence. Spain and Portugal are, alas, *terra incognita*. Loud as the blast of revolution has sounded throughout the rest of Europe, it seems not to have reached the closed ears of the stagnant and torpid people of these two countries.

It has been fashionable to denounce the Malthusian theory of population as immoral, and its doctrines as an impugment of the wisdom and goodness of Providence. We will not here discuss the subject. Mr. Malthus was an orthodox minister of the Church of England, and it is not probable that he would publish any thing which was justly obnoxious to such charges. We will not absolutely assert that the present condition of England exactly proves his theory, but we are afraid that we cannot be contradicted when we assert that in this country population increases faster than the means of feeding and supporting it. In this case we cannot look across the Atlantic for counsel; you cannot be in such a position for centuries to come; although from the great desire which certain parties among you have for "annexation," it might be imagined that they feared such an event. But, although you cannot furnish us with the counsels of experience, you can supply the remedy, by receiving our superabundant agriculturists and artisans upon your spacious prairies and Western domains, and ensuring to them peace, plenty, liberty of conscience, and political freedom. There is no escape from our present painful position but by emigration. The efforts of the Government will, of course, be directed to the encouragement of emigration to Canada or Australia, but the bulk of those who can find the means of paying their own expenses will seek a home in the United States.

If continental politics were arranged, and France and Germany again turned their attention to the "fair delirious air of peace" and commercial intercourse, we should be relieved from much of the pressure which is upon us, because employment would be more plentiful, and many could then feed themselves by their labor who now depend upon the poor laws or casual relief.

The sudden death of Lord GEORGE BENTINCK created a great sensation. He had of late been a prominent and busy actor on the political stage. There was an energy of character and an unwearied activity about him which appeared to bespeak an iron constitution; and his favorite pursuits had been of a nature to strengthen that impression. The instantaneous extinction of such a man struck awfully upon the public mind.

There was much about the character of Lord GEORGE that commanded affection and respect; though not even probably his warmest friends will attribute to him those fine, comprehensive, and elevating qualities which constitute the statesman, in the true sense of the word. Whilst yet a very young man, his capacity for labor and quickness of apprehension were discovered and appreciated by Mr. CANNING, who had married his mother's sister. Lord GEORGE acted as private secretary to Mr. CANNING for a considerable time. His connection with the *tribune* commenced afterwards, and it is an act of justice to his memory to state that although the associations of such an employment are not the most refined, nor the business the best adapted to a gentleman, yet in the whole course of his attention to the *tribune* his Lordship cannot be justly charged with a single mean, indirect, or dishonorable action. Lord GEORGE BENTINCK was a sort of guerrilla chief in politics. He was the advocate of the landed aristocracy and the system of protection. But he was not successful in defending a foredoomed cause; he protracted its downfall, but he never had any chance of re-establishing it. He was clever in keeping a minority together, but he could only render it harassing to his antagonists; he could not convert it into a majority. The statements by which he endeavored to support his arguments were often fragmentary, generally ill arranged, and very frequently inaccurate. Very seldom could his sta-

tistical details be depended upon, and his own carelessness often exposed him to defeat. This did not arise from a want of industry; for he was remarkably laborious, and his health was injured, and a predisposition to the disease which struck him from the roll of living men in an instant, had been induced by close application to study—at least so those assert who knew him best. Lord GEORGE was the second son of the Duke of Portland, and in the 46th year of his age. He was never married. It is supposed that the Marquis of GRANBY will succeed him in the House of Commons as the leader of the Protectionists.

The Cholera is marching steadily towards us; it has reached Paris, and there were cases of Asiatic cholera in London reported last week. "Directions for treating the Cholera," and other proofs of its proximity, if not of its presence, are advertised for sale and exhibited in the bookseller's windows. The *Times* appears to make light of the disorder, and says it is a mistake to imagine that its visitation is attended with any extraordinary mortality; that more persons by far died of the cholera last year in London than did of the cholera when last in that city. The cholera is pronounced most decidedly non-contagious, and in its early stage very easy of cure. Panic is deprecated, and cheerfulness and composure and ease recommended.

There is nothing new in London. The Queen is yet in Scotland, but the gloomy wet weather which has succeeded to the beautiful season preceding, will probably hurry her Majesty back to the south and drive hundreds of absentees from Champs-Élysées and Cornhill back to their usual haunts.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL has been informed that he will not be wanted at Clonmel as a witness on the trial of Mr. O'BRIEN; a position from which his Lordship will no doubt gladly escape.

All is quiet in IRELAND. True bills have been found against Mr. O'BRIEN and the other parties accused of high treason, and the trials are about commencing.

There is very little new from FRANCE. LOUIS NAPOLEON has taken his seat in the National Assembly in a very quiet unobtrusive way, and made a good speech from the tribune, in which he pledged his loyalty and devotion to the republic. M. RASPAIL's election to the Assembly is admitted, but the prosecution against him has been ordered to be continued by an immense majority, so that he cannot take his seat unless he is acquitted on trial. M. MOLE has also taken his seat for Bordeaux, and was received with marked attention.

SEPTEMBER 28TH.—The military commission charged with the examination and classification of the insurgents of June have concluded their labors. They have been employed nearly two months for eight hours every day, without excepting Sundays and holidays. They had to scrutinize twelve thousand files of examinations, &c. The total of the accused on whose cases they had to decide was 10,838. Of these 6,236 have been set at liberty, 4,346 condemned to transportation, and 256 sent to courts-martial. The National Assembly is busily employed discussing the new constitution. The article which declares "that every citizen shall be taxed for the maintenance of the Government in proportion to his property" was carried by a vote of 644 to 98, and with great applause. Such majorities on such questions augur well, and give a strong guaranty for justice and order. Should the constitution get fixed and the President of the republic elected before the winter commences, and any great number of unemployed operatives again assembled in Paris, we shall regard France as safe from internal enemies, and we do not at present perceive any one threatening her from without.

There is very little new respecting GERMANY. Every thing is quiet at present in Frankfurt, Vienna, and Berlin. There have been slight disturbances at Friburg and Baden. The Archduke JOHN and the Central Parliament are employed on the great work committed to them. There seems to be considerable apprehension in Vienna that JELLIACHICH, the Ban of Croatia, who has lately been so successful against the MAGYARS of Hungary, will, after he has conquered that people, march directly upon the Austrian capital, and endeavor to establish the SCLAVONIAN rule upon the ruins of the Hungarian and the Austrian. Much distrust exists in Berlin between the King and the National Assembly, and between the people and the army.

There is most melancholy news from SICILY. The carnage at the siege and during the bombardment of MESSINA was horrible. The Neapolitan loss in killed and wounded was not less than 3,500, and that of the Sicilians quite as great. The interference of the English and French naval officers prevented much outrage that would otherwise have occurred, and many hundreds of women and children found safety in the ships. Admirals BATHIN and PARKER are deserving the gratitude of the civilized world for putting an end to a warfare so disgraceful to the age.

It is rumored that four thousand French troops have arrived at VENICE for the purpose of preventing the Austrians from taking possession of that city, in contravention of the armistice. No less than twenty thousand muskets, with cannon and ammunition, have been sent by CHARLES ALBERT to Venice, and he announces his intention to protect that city from any attack or occupation by Austria.

The DUKE OF TUSCANY has proclaimed that matters have been satisfactorily arranged between himself and his rebellious subjects at Leghorn, Lucca, and Pisa.

The Carlists and Republicans are said to be entering SPAIN in great numbers through the Pyrenees, and the Montemolinists are reported as being very strong in Navarre; but we hear so much about these things, and know so little, that all these rumors are unheeded and forgotten almost as soon as heard.

We ought to have mentioned, under the head of Italy, that the armistice between Austria and Sardinia has been extended for six weeks (another account says for only thirty days) from the 21st instant. Surely England and France will consummate the work of peace within the time, whichever it may be.

The theatrical world is resting, and preparing for the winter campaign. JENNY LIND is doing a good work, by filling Dublin with harmony; her success has been immense.

The Duke of ARROYAL has added to the list of "noble authors," by the publication of "An Essay, critical and historical, on the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland, since the Reformation." His Grace is a staunch Presbyterian of the old school. The work is said to display considerable talent and much laborious research. The Duke is a young author, being only twenty-five years old. He made a very liberal speech in the House of Lords in favor of abolishing the Jewish disabilities.

Archdeacon PALEY is charged with a wholesale literary theft by the Editor of the *Athenæum*. That gentleman proves that the "Natural Theology" of PALEY was stolen from a work published in Holland, long before PALEY's time, by Dr. BERNARD NIETWEERT. The *Church and State Gazette* says: "PALEY shines unrivalled in the enormity and splendor of his plagiarisms. In the annals of literary piracy like this; and unless the friends and relatives of PALEY can submit satisfactory evidence before the tribunal of the public that he has had foul wrong done unto him, his reputation as an honest writer sinks forever beneath the sea of contemptuous obloquy."

SEPTEMBER 29.—The news of the morning is, that the Duchess of MONTPEISIER has given birth to a daughter; and that the Carlists have been defeated in Catalonia. From Germany we hear of political disturbances at Cologne, and of that city being declared in a state of siege. The Archduke JOHN has formed a new administration. The in-

surgeants have been finally routed at Baden; and the Croats have been defeated by the Hungarians. Italian papers state that the blockade of Venice has been resumed, and that the Neapolitans and Sicilians have had a severe engagement near Catania, without any material advantage on either side. Nothing new from France, excepting two excellent speeches made in the Assembly by M.M. LAMARTINE and ODILON BARROT—the latter for and the former against the Legislature consisting of two Chambers. These speeches are praised by all parties. M. DUPIN also spoke strongly in favor of a single chamber. The question was decided by a vote of 530 for a single chamber, 289 for two chambers. M. ODILON BARROT eulogized a Republican form of Government as being "the best, the most just, and the most worthy of Governments, and to be entitled to preference so long as it gave security and liberty." He delivered a eulogium on the existing Government of France, and praised its policy both at home and abroad—"abroad, in resisting foreign war, to which generous impulses might have driven it; and at home, in resisting the pretensions of the Communists and Socialists." Our only domestic news is, that the cholera has appeared at Hull. The Bank returns for Great Britain and Ireland to the 9th instant show the following results:

Circulation diminished since 9th Sept., 1847, £2,428,402
Coin and bullion increased do. £4,332,516

Is this a favorable statement, or the reverse? There are two sides to every question.

THE SONG OF LIGHTNING.

BY G. W. CUTLER.

Could I embody and unshook now
That which is most within me—could I wreak
My thoughts upon existence, and thus throw
Soul, heart, mind, passions, feelings, strong or weak,
All that I would have sought, and all I seek,
Bear, know, feel, and yet breathe—into one word,
And that one word were LIGHTNING, I would speak.

Away, away through the slightest air—
Stretch forth your iron thread;
For I would not dim my sandals fair
With the dust ye tamely tread;
Aye, rear it up on its million piers—
Let it reach the world around,
And the journey ye make in a hundred years
I'll clear at a single bound!

Thou! I cannot toil like the groaning slave
Ye have fettered with iron skill,
To ferry you over the boundless wave,
Or grind in the noisy mill;
Let him sing his giant strength and speed:
Why, a single shaft of mine
Would give that monster a fright, indeed,
To the depths of the ocean bed.

No, no! I'm the spirit of light and love,
To my unseen hand 'tis given
To pencil the ambient clouds above,
And polish the stars of heaven
On the horizon far below;
I scatter the golden rays of fire
And deck the skies where storms expire,
With my red and dazzling glow.

The deepest recesses of earth are mine—
I traverse its silent core;
Around me the stony diamonds shine,
And the sparkling fields of ore.
And oft I leap from my throne so high
To the depths of the ocean's cave,
Where the fadest forests of coral lie,
Far under the world of waves.

My being is like a lovely thought
That dwells in a sinless breast:
A tone of music that never was caught—
A word that was ne'er expressed.
I burn in the bright and burnished halls,
Where the fountains of sunlight play—
Where the curtain of gold and opal falls,
O'er the scenes of the dying day.

With a glance I cleave the sky in twain,
Stretch forth your iron thread;
When all the budding buds of rain,
Through the darkly curtained air,
The rock-built towers, the turret gray,
The piles of a thousand years,
Have not the strength of pottery's clay,
Before my glittering spear.

From the Alps' or the highest Andes' crag,
From the peaks of eternal snow,
The dazzling folds of my fiery flag
Gleam o'er the world below;
The earthquake heralds my coming power,
The avalanche heralds my power,
And howling storms, at midnight hour,
Proclaim my kingly awe.

Ye tremble when my legions come—
When my quivering sword leaps out
O'er the hills that echo my thunder-drum,
And rend with my joyous shout:
Ye quail on the land or upon the seas,
And stand in your fear agape,
To see me burn the stalwart trees,
Or shiver the stately mast.

The hieroglyphs on the Persian wall,
The letters of high command,
Where the prophet read the tyrant's fall,
Were traced with my burning hand;
And on the fire I wrote single then,
What angry Heaven decreed—
But the sealed eyes of sinful men
Were all too blind to read.

At last the hour of light is here,
And kings no more shall blind,
No the bigoted eyes with grim fear,
The forward march of mind;
The words of truth and freedom's rays
Are from my pinions hurled,
And soon the sun of better days
Shall rise upon the world.

But away, away, through the slightest air—
Stretch forth your iron thread;
For I would not dim my sandals fair
With the dust ye tamely tread;
Aye, rear it up on its million piers—
Let it circle the world around,
And the journey ye make in a hundred years
I'll clear at a single bound!

THE MAMMOTH LOTTERY!

VIRGINIA STATE LOTTERY.
For endowing Leeburg Academy, and for other purposes.
Class A, for 1848.
To be drawn at Alexandria, Va., on Saturday, October 28,
under the superintendence of Commissioners.

J. W. MAURY & CO., Managers.

| GRAND SCHEME. | |
|--|-----------|
| 1 magnificent capital of..... | \$100,000 |
| 1 splendid prize of..... | 40,000 |
| 1 do..... | 25,000 |
| 1 do..... | 20,000 |
| 1 prize of..... | 15,000 |
| 2 do..... | 10,000 |
| 5 do..... | 5,016 |
| 100 do..... | 2,853 |
| 173 prizes of (lowest 3 No. prizes)..... | 1,000 |
| 30 do..... | 500 |
| 65 do..... | 200 |
| 65 do..... | 100 |
| 130 do..... | 60 |
| 4,745 do..... | 40 |
| 27,040 do..... | 20 |

78 number lottery—13 drawn ballots.

PRIZE OF TICKETS.

| | |
|--|--|
| Wholes \$20—Halves \$10—Quarters \$5—Eighths \$2.50. | |
| Certificates of packages in this Splendid Lottery can be had as follows: | |
| A certificate of a package of 26 Whole tickets \$270 00 | |
| Do do 26 Halves 135 00 | |
| Do do 26 Quarters 67 50 | |
| Do do 26 Eighths 33 75 | |

The holder of a certificate of a package of tickets is entitled to have \$225 nett that may be drawn by the twenty-six tickets named therein. Certificates of halves, quarters, and eighths in proportion.

This scheme is one of the most splendid ever drawn in the U. States, and is well worthy of the attention of adventurers. Orders for tickets and shares and certificates of packages in the above Splendid Lottery will receive the most prompt attention, and an account of the drawing will be sent immediately after it is over to all who order. Address—J. W. MAURY, Agents, Alexandria, Virginia.

WASHINGTON IRVING'S SKETCH BOOK.

FROM THE "KNICKERBOCKER" FOR OCTOBER.

PUTNAM, Publisher, Broadway, New York, has issued an elegant new edition, revised, of *Washington Irving's Sketch Book*. Nothing, of course, need be said of a work which has "stamped itself upon the age, and to all time;" but the history of its production is of such interest that we give it entire, from the early sheets of the volume, kindly loaned us by the publisher:

The following papers, with two exceptions, were written in England, and formed part of an intended series for which I had made notes and memoranda. Before I could mature a plan, however, circumstances compelled me to send them piecemeal to the United States, where they were published from time to time in portions or numbers. It was not my intention to publish them in England, being conscious that much of their contents could be interesting only to American readers, and, in truth, being deterred by the severity with which American productions had been tested by the British press.

By the time the contents of the first volume had appeared in this occasional manner they began to find their way across the Atlantic, and to be inserted, with many kind encomiums, in the *Literary Gazette*. It was said also that a London bookseller intended to publish them in a collective form. I determined therefore to bring them forward myself, that they might at least have the benefit of my superintendence and revision. I accordingly took the printed numbers which I had received from Mr. John Murray, the eminent publisher, from whom I had already received friendly attentions, and left them with him for examination, informing him that, should he be inclined to bring them before the public, I had materials enough on hand for a second volume. Several days having elapsed without any communication from Mr. Murray, I addressed a note to him, in which I construed his silence into a tacit rejection of my work, and begged that the numbers I had left with him might be returned to me. The following was his reply:

"MY DEAR SIR: I entreat you to believe that I feel truly obliged by your kind intentions toward me, and that I entertain the most anxious respect for your most beautiful work. My house is completely filled with work-people at this time, and I have only an office to transact business in; and yesterday I was wholly occupied, or I should have done myself the pleasure of seeing you."

"If it would not suit me to engage in the publication of your present work, it is only because I do not see that scope in the nature of it which would enable me to make these satisfactory accounts between us without which I really find no satisfaction in engaging; but I will do all I can to promote their circulation, and shall be most ready to attend to any future plan of yours."

"With much regard, I remain, dear sir, your faithful servant,
JOHN MURRAY."

This was disheartening, and might have deterred me from any further prosecution of the matter, had the question of republication in Great Britain rested entirely with me; but I apprehended the appearance of a spurious edition. I now thought of Mr. Archibald Constable as publisher, having been treated by him with much hospitality during a visit to Edinburgh; but first I determined to submit my work to Sir Walter (then Mr.) Scott, being encouraged to do so by the cordial reception I had experienced from him at Abbotsford a few years previously, and by the favorable opinion he had expressed to others of my earlier writings. I accordingly sent him the printed numbers of the *Sketch Book* in a parcel by coach, and at the same time wrote to him, hinting that since I had the pleasure of partaking of his hospitality a reverse had taken place in my affairs which made the successful exercise of my pen all-important to me; I begged him, therefore, to look over the literary articles I had forwarded to him, and, if he thought they would bear European republication, to ascertain whether Mr. Constable would be inclined to be the publisher.

The parcel containing my work went by coach to Scott's address in Edinburgh; the letter went by mail to his residence in the country. By the very first post I received a reply, before he had seen my work:

"I was down at Kelso," said he, "when your letter reached Abbotsford. I am now on my way to town, and will converse with Constable, and do all in my power to forward your views: I assure you nothing will give me more pleasure."

The hint, however, about a reverse of fortune had struck the quick apprehension of Scott, and, with that practical and efficient good-will which belonged to his nature, he had already devised a way of aiding me. A weekly periodical, he went on to inform me, was about to be set up in Edinburgh, supported by the most respectable talents, and amply furnished with all the necessary information. The appointment of the editor, for which ample funds were provided, would be five hundred pounds sterling a year, with the reasonable prospect of further advantages. This situation, being apparently at his disposal, he frankly offered to me. The work, however, he intimated, was to have somewhat of a political bearing, and he expressed an apprehension that the tone it was desired to adopt might not suit me. "Yet I risk the question," added he, "because I know no man so well qualified for this important task, and perhaps because it will necessarily bring you to Edinburgh. If my proposal does not suit, you need only keep the matter secret, and there is no harm done. 'And for my love I pray you wrong me not.' If, on the contrary, you think it could be made to suit you, let me know as soon as possible, addressing Castle Street, Edinburgh."

In a postscript, written from Edinburgh, he adds: "I am just come here, and have glanced over the *Sketch Book*. It is positively beautiful, and increases my desire to *crimp* you, if it is possible. Some difficulties there always are in managing such a matter, especially at the outset; but we will obviate them as much as we possibly can."

The following is from an imperfect draught of my reply, which underwent some modifications in the copy sent:

"I cannot express how much I am gratified by your letter. I had begun to feel as if I had taken an unwarrantable liberty; but, somehow or other, there is a great something about you that warms every creeping thing into heart and confidence. Your literary proposal both surprises and flatters me, as it evinces a much higher opinion of my talents than I have myself."

"I then went on to explain that I found myself peculiarly unfitted for the situation offered to me, not merely by my political opinions, but by the very constitution and habits of my mind. 'My whole career,' I observed, 'has been in the literary, and I am unfitted for any periodically-recurring task, or any stipulated labor of body or mind. I have no command of my talents, such as they are, and have to have the varieties of my mind as I would those of a weathercock. Practice and training may bring me more into rule; but at present I am as useless for regular service as one of my own country Indians, or a Don Cossack.' I then went on to say, writing when I can, not when I would. I shall occasionally shift my residence, and write whatever is suggested by objects before me, or whatever rises in my imagination; and hope to write better and more copiously by-and-by."

"I am playing the egotist, but I know no better way of answering your proposal than by showing what very good-for-nothing kind of being I am. Should Mr. Constable feel inclined to make a bargain for the wares I have on hand, he will encourage me to further enterprise; and it will be something like trading with a gipsy for the fruits of his prowling, who may at one time have nothing but a wooden bowl to offer, and at another time a silver tankard."

In reply Scott expressed regret, but not surprise, at my declining what might have proved a troublesome duty. He had returned to the original subject of our correspondence; entered into a detail of the various terms upon which arrangements were made between authors and booksellers, that I might take my choice; expressing the most encouraging confidence of the success of my work, and of previous works which I had produced in America. I did not more, added he, than open the trenches with Constable; but I am sure if you will take the trouble to write to him, you will find him disposed to treat your overtures with every degree of attention. Or, if you think it of consequence in the first place to see me, I shall be in London in the course of a month, and whatever my experience can command is most heartily at your command. But I can add little to what I have said above, except my earnest recommendation to Constable to enter into the negotiation."

Before the receipt of this most obliging letter, however, I had determined to look to no leading bookseller for a launch, but to send my work to Mr. Constable, who was then in London, and to whom I had already written a long letter, in which I had expressed my confidence in his judgment, and my belief that he would be inclined to be the publisher. I cannot avoid alluding to a note a succeeding paragraph of Scott's letter, which, though it does not relate to the main subject of our correspondence, was too characteristic to be omitted. Some time previously I had sent him *Sophia Scott's* small decision, *American Edition*, of her Father's poems, published in Edinburgh in quarto volumes; showing the "ni-

but to throw my work before the public at my own risk, and let it sink or swim according to its merits. I wrote to that effect to Scott, and soon received a reply:

"I observe with pleasure that you are going to come forth in Britain. It is certainly not the very best way to publish on one's own account;